

APR 3  
APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION TO PRACTICE LAW

(a) Prerequisite for Admission. Every person desiring to be admitted to the Bar of the State of Washington must be of good moral character, possess the requisite fitness to practice law, and must qualify for and pass a bar examination except as provided for in these rules.

(b) Qualification for Bar Examination. To qualify to sit for the bar examination, a person must present satisfactory proof of either:

- (i) graduation from a law school approved by the Board of Governors; or
- (ii) completion of the law clerk program prescribed by these rules; or
- (iii) graduation from a United States law school not approved by the Board of Governors together with the completion of an LL.M. degree for the practice of law as defined by these rules; or
- (iv) graduation from a university or law school outside the United States with a degree in law together with the completion of an LL.M. degree for the practice of law as defined by these rules; or
- (v) admission to the practice of law, together with current good standing, in any jurisdiction where the common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence, and active legal experience for at least 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.

"Active legal experience" means experience either in the active practice of law, or as a teacher at an approved law school, or as a judge of a court of general or appellate jurisdiction, or any combination thereof, in a state or territory of the United States or in the District of Columbia or in any jurisdiction where the common law of England is the basis of its jurisprudence.

"LL.M. degree for the practice of law" means an LL.M. program at a law school approved by the Board of Governors that consists of a minimum of 18,200 minutes of total instruction to include at least 12,000 minutes of instruction on principles of domestic United States law, which must include:

- (i) a minimum of 2080 minutes in United States constitutional Law, including principles of separation of powers and federalism;
- (ii) a minimum of 2080 minutes in the civil procedure of state and federal courts in the United States;
- (iii) a minimum of 1400 minutes in the history, goals, structure, values, rules and responsibilities of the United States legal profession and its members; and
- (iv) a minimum of 1400 minutes in legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem solving, and oral and written communication.

(c) Admission by Motion. Lawyers admitted to practice law in other states or territories of the United States or the District of Columbia are not required to sit for the bar examination if they:

- (i) file a certificate from that jurisdiction certifying the lawyer's admission to practice, and the date thereof, and current good standing or the equivalent; and
- (ii) present satisfactory proof of active legal experience for at last 3 of the 5 years immediately preceding the filing of the application.

(d) Exceptions. The Board of Governors may, in its discretion, withhold approval of an application or permission to sit for the bar examination for an otherwise qualified applicant, until completion of an inquiry into the applicant's character and fitness, if the applicant (i) has ever been convicted of a "serious crime" as defined in ELC 7.1(a)(2), or (ii) has ever been disbarred or is presently suspended from the practice of law for disciplinary reasons in any jurisdiction, or (iii) has previously been denied admission to the Bar in this or any other jurisdiction for reasons other than failure to pass a bar examination. The Board of Governors may also withhold approval of an application or permission to sit for the bar examination where for any other reason there are serious and substantial questions regarding the present moral character or fitness of the applicant. The Board of Governors may refer such matters to the Character and Fitness Board for investigation and hearing pursuant to these rules.

(d) Forms; Fees; Filing. Every applicant for admission shall:

- (1) Execute and file an application, in the form and manner and within the time limits that may be prescribed by the Board of Governors;
- (2) Pay upon the filing of the application such fees as may be set by the Board of Governors with the approval of the Supreme Court; and
- (3) Furnish whatever additional information or proof may be required in the course of investigating the applicant.

[Amended effective August 1, 1968; September 27, 1968; March 10, 1971; July 1, 1976; September 1, 1984; May 10, 1990; September 1, 1992; October 1, 2002; September 1, 2005; September 1, 2006; January 1, 2014.]

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